

A 2012-68

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Administrative Officer

November 15, 2011

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Appeal of United States Parcel Service Decision to Close the Spring Dale, WV Post Office.

Docket Number 1382525-25986

2011 NOV 22 P 1:59

The United States Parcel Service (USPS) has decided to close this post office without the examination or consideration of future impact on, not only this post office and dependent communities, but also the impact on the effected Meadow Bridge and Rainelle post offices.

Our post office is located on route 20 which is a main route and is only 2/10 mile north from the intersection of route 29. It is on a safe straight stretch of road, and there has never been an accident caused by traffic entering or leaving our parking lot. However, the Meadow Bridge post office entrance is in a curve and there is an occasional accident there. Within the last week, a school bus hit a car at that entrance. Regardless of the installation of mailboxes, our seniors will be forced to use the Meadow Bridge post office and will be exposed to increased traffic volume and a higher incidence of accidents there, in addition to crossing Spring Dale hill on slick roads during the winter.

Spring Dale has already become a needed post office for the communities of Bellwood, Dawson, Grassy Meadows and other locations where post offices have already closed. The future closings of other nearby post offices will increase the need for the Spring Dale post office to stay open. Several who live in the Dawson area now travel 6 miles to the Spring Dale post office, but all people in that area will soon travel 15 miles to Crawley (30 mile loop) when the targeted Smoot post offices closes. Some of the residents in Spring Dale seldom travel, and for them, 4.1 miles becomes an unwanted 8.2 miles. The Spring Dale post office is modern with handicap access, and has a large parking lot

Another important consideration is future growth of the Rainelle and Meadow Bridge post office as more and more post offices close. Both of these will be effected by the closure of Spring Dale, but the Rainelle Post office was never notified in that regard. The Meadow Bridge post office is already very busy and the additional volume caused by future closures of post offices in addition to ours at Spring Dale would likely result in the hiring of at least one additional employee there. That cancels the benefit of lowering USPS employee expense by closing Spring Dale. As previously mentioned, the Smoot post office is already targeted for closure, and the customers there will follow the historical trend of Dawson and Grassy Meadows in coming to our Spring Dale post office. The volume will increase at the Meadow Bridge post office when Meadow Creek closes, and with the anticipated closures of Sandstone and Green Sulphur. Please reject the closure of the Spring Dale post office because of these reasons.

Betty Puckett, P.O. Box 66

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